(b) Some of the promotional schemes were on all India basis and some in selected areas depending upon availability of capacity.

Schemes like full talk time on recharge coupons offered from 22nd September, 2003 till 31 st December, 2003 and Student Power-99 from 2nd September, 2003 till 31st October, 2003 were on all India basis.

Some of the schemes launched on area basis were Rs. 600/- free talk time with no activation fees from 19.8.2003 to 31.8.2003, Student Power-99 from 1.11.2003 to 31.1.2004, One + One scheme (1 Cell-One connection free on purchase of One Cell-One connection) launched from 1.7.2003 to 31.7.2003 and Rs. 600/- talk-time free for six months to new Cell One customers from 24.7.2003 to 15.8.2003, etc.

BSNL has also tied up with SBI Cards and ICICI Credit Cards to provide cellular handsets of major brands at attractive monthly instalments to SBI Credit Cards holders and ICICI Credit Card holders.

(c) As per the information gathered from newspapers, other cellular operators also reacted aggressjvely and introduced matching schemes in both Post-paid and Pre-paid category.

Customer's reaction was very positive. BSNL experienced a substantial growth in customer base with these schemes.

Post Office in Krishna Nagar

982. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1210 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the new departmental building of Krishna Nagar Post Office is far away from Krishna Nagar and is very inconvenient for the residents of Krishna Nagar;

(b) whether the Sub-Post Office of Krishna Nagar, which was temporarily shifted, has not been opened so far causing great inconvenience to the people; and

(c) by when a Post Office would be opened in Krishna Nagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In Krishna Nagar a Head Post Office is functioning. Krishna Nagar Bazar Sub Post Office was temporarily shifted from the rented building due to a vacation order passed by the District Court. As no suitable alternate accommodation is available in the area, this Sub Post Office continues to operate from Krishna Nagar Head Post Office which is functioning in a departmental building.

Monthly sugar quota

983. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the monthly sugar quota *w.e.f.* August,2003;

(b) whether such a decision has created an artificial shortage and increased the prices of sugar to Rs. 250 per quintal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring down the prices of sugar in the open market immediately and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD):(a) to (d) The monthly quota of non-levy sugar is decided keeping in view the various factors like sugar production, requirement/demand, availability of alternate sweetners like gur and khandsari, price trend of sugar in the market etc. The total quantity of non-levy sugar released month-wise from August, 2003 to December, 2003 *vis-a-vis* the releases made in the corresponding months of 2002 as under: